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DATE: August 21, 1998  
TO: Laboratory Director and QA Manager  
FROM: Dr. Barbara J. Erickson, Ph.D., Bureau Chief  
SUBJECT: Information Update #50  
NOTE: If any problems occur with this web site, please call 1-800-952-0074 or (602) 255-3454 and ask for Technical Resources and Training. Thank You.

1. Clarification to the item #2, in the [Information Update 48](#), regarding the approval of "Hot Block Digesters" for 200.7, 200.9, 6010A, 7000 series, 3113B, 245.1 and 7470A for Arizona compliance testing. Our Information Update did not intend to imply that EPA Cincinnati actually approved the "Hot Block Digester", as equipment approval is not the role of EPA Cincinnati.

Arizona has determined that this equipment would be a suitable alternative to the conventional equipment, once the user has demonstrated equivalency and the procedure required in the reference method is followed. Arizona's decision is based on compliance and technical input provided by several sources at EPA.

Additionally please note, to prove equivalency for the analysis of mercury in various media, the laboratory must address two concerns:

- a. The method blanks are clean and that the digestion containers haven't contributed to any contamination.
- b. There is a concern that methyl mercury could be lost if plastic containers are used for digestion. To prove equipment equivalency, as part of the initial demonstration of equivalency, the laboratories must demonstrate method required acceptable spike recoveries with methyl mercury.

We apologize if this has caused any confusion.

2. If you have any questions regarding the Updates, or if you have any technical questions that need clarification, please call or send [e-mail](#) to Prabha Acharya, Program Manager, Technical Resources and Training at the Laboratory Licensure. A [table of contents](#) to all the Information Updates published is also available.

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